

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified granting women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, since 1971, when the United States Congress designated August 26th as Women's Equality Day, we have recognized the struggle for equal rights for women; and

WHEREAS, in 1869, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the National Woman Suffrage Association; which allowed only female membership and advocated for women's suffrage; and

WHEREAS, in 1869, Lucy Stone formed the American Woman Suffrage Association; which supported the Fifteenth Amendment and invited men to participate; and

WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony, gave over 75 speeches per year for over 45 years, voted in 1872 presidential election and was arrested and tried; and

WHEREAS, in 1890, the National and American associations merged to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton became the new organization's first president; and

WHEREAS, in 1916, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns formed the National Woman's Party which introduced non-violent demonstrations that gained supporters and media coverage which advocated for a federal amendment to allow equal voting rights for women; and


WHEREAS, their efforts encouraged the introduction of the Nineteenth Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have united to assure that these rights are available to all citizens regardless of sex; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have designated August 26th, the anniversary date of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, as symbol of the continued fight for equal rights;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2008, as "WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY" in North Carolina. I urge all citizens to seek opportunities to learn more about the history of Women's Equality Day and to educate themselves on the many struggles women overcame in the pursuit of equality.




MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the _____ this eighth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.